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United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
Albuquerque Area Office
505 Marquette N.W. Suite 1313
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87102-2162

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HISTORIC PRESERVATION
DIVISION

Ms. Jan Biella
Acting New Mexico State Historic Preservation Officer
New Mexico Historic Preservation Department
228 E. Palace Ave.
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501

065243

Subject: Albuquerque Drinking Water Project – Environmental Impact Statement and National Historic Preservation Act Consultation

Dear Ms. Biella:

In order to comply with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, the Albuquerque Area Office of the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) requests your views on our efforts to identify historic properties for the Albuquerque Drinking Water Project (as specified in 36 CFR 800.4). Reclamation is the lead Federal agency for National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) compliance on this project, and is working with the City of Albuquerque (the City) to prepare of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The Draft EIS was released to the public for a 60 day comment period on June 14, 2002.

We wish to consult with you on the effects of this project on historic properties. The purpose of the project is to allow the City to divert and use their San Juan-Chama Project water from the Rio Grande. The project presently has four alternatives (including the No Action alternative). The three action alternatives share a water treatment plant and a water transmission system. The three action alternatives differ mainly in the means of diverting water from the Rio Grande and the conveyance of the raw water to the water treatment plant. We recommend that two of the action alternatives, the preferred alternative (Alternative B – New Surface Diversion) and the other Paso del Norte Diversion alternative (Alternative C – New Subsurface Diversion), will have no adverse effects on historic properties. The Angostura Diversion alternative (Alternative A) would have adverse effects on historic properties, as would the No Action alternative (although the adverse effects of the No Action alternative consist of subsidence from long-term ground water pumping and are thus difficult to quantify).

We have been consulting with you on this project intermittently over the past two years. Jim Hare of your office toured the various alternatives with Signa Larralde of Reclamation and Rick Billings of Parsons Engineering on March 19, 2002, and has been very helpful in suggesting ways to minimize project impacts on historic properties. Parsons Engineering is the EIS contractor for the project; Ecosystem Management, Inc. conducted the cultural resources survey as a subcontractor to Parsons.

We are enclosing for your review a copy of the cultural resources survey report for the project, which was prepared by Daniel H. Wells and Catherine Colby and edited by Kenneth L. Brown, all of Ecosystem Management, Inc. (NMCRIS Number 74473). Ecosystem Management conducted a Class III inventory of all the portions of the proposed project that were not 100% developed or disturbed. They documented three previously recorded sites and three new sites during the project, for a total of six sites. Five of the sites are irrigation canals, and one is a prehistoric lithic scatter. In addition, Ecosystem Management evaluated the effects of the various alternatives on historic properties. Reclamation and Parsons Engineering conducted public outreach for the project and consulted with Native American tribes. All these efforts are detailed in the cultural resources report.

We concur with Ecosystem Management's recommendations that all but one of the sites are eligible for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places. LA 112421, a segment of the Atrisco Feeder (a Middle Rio Grande Project irrigation canal); LA 112423, a segment of the Albuquerque Main Canal (a Middle Rio Grande Project irrigation canal); LA 114200, a segment of the Albuquerque Main Canal (a Middle Rio Grande Project irrigation canal); and LA 132367, an abandoned wasteway that was part of the Middle Rio Grande Project are recommended eligible for nomination to the National Register under criterion a, their contribution to the broad patterns of our history. (Note that in 1997, Reclamation submitted a report documenting the various components of the Middle Rio Grande Project to your office, with the recommendation that the entire irrigation system is eligible under criterion a and parts of the system may be eligible under criterion c. Because of ownership issues, we later requested that you not review our recommendation.) LA 132368 is an abandoned irrigation canal not considered eligible because of its lack of integrity. LA 132366 is a prehistoric lithic scatter of unknown age and cultural affiliation with approximately 50 artifacts consisting of debitage and tools. We recommend that this site is eligible under criterion d. We are enclosing site forms for all six sites.

Providing that the preferred alternative (Alternative B) or Alternative C is chosen, we recommend that the project will have no adverse effect on historic properties. The preferred alternative consists of construction of an inflatable dam across the Rio Grande in the vicinity of the Paseo del Norte, diversion of water to the Chappell Drive Water Treatment Plant via an existing diversion channel, and transmission of water from the water treatment plant to various east and west side neighborhoods by means of subsurface pipelines located in existing streets. The preferred alternative and Alternative C will have no adverse effect, providing the City adheres to the following stipulations, as detailed in the cultural resources survey report:

- All Middle Rio Grande Project irrigation features will be re-constructed in their original configuration after construction is completed.
- The prehistoric site, LA 132366, will be avoided when the transmission line plans are drawn up for the west side.
- The City will provide plans of the transmission line setbacks for review by Reclamation and your office, to ensure that effects to masonry and adobe structures are minimized

during construction of the transmission lines. The City will allow a review period of at least 60 days prior to the start of construction of the transmission lines.

- If necessary, the City will ensure that construction in sensitive areas is monitored by a qualified monitor, to minimize effects to masonry and adobe structures.
- The City will follow procedures described in the "Discovery Plan" section of the cultural resources report, to ensure adequate preparation for and treatment of possible subsurface discoveries during construction.
- Prior to construction, the City will complete the Class III inventory of the portions of the project that have not yet been inventoried. Reclamation will consult with your office under 36 CFR Part 800 regulations on the results of this inventory.

In addition, we recommend the following actions as part of the project:

- The proposed transmission line for crossing the North Valley should use Alameda Drain/Matthew Avenue (Option 4) to avoid the historic adobe and masonry structures along Candelaria (Option 3).
- Wherever the pipeline trench is less than 6 m (20 ft) from the setback line for structures, then construction methods will be modified so that the vibration levels do not exceed 0.5 in/sec peak particle velocity, and if the distance of the pipeline trench and the setback line for any adobe building along any part of the water project is less than 6 m (20 ft) then efforts will be made to ensure that vibration levels do not exceed 0.2/sec peak particle velocity.

Please provide your views on the above eligibility recommendations, and on the "no adverse effect" recommendation for the preferred alternative (Alternative B) and for Alternative C. If we do not hear from your office within 30 days, we will assume your concurrence with our recommendations regarding the preferred alternative or Alternative C. The only alternative that would entail adverse effects is the Angostura Diversion alternative (Alternative A). If this alternative is chosen, we will resume consultation with your office to mitigate adverse effects.

Should you have any questions or wish to discuss any of the recommendations or the cultural resources survey report, please do not hesitate to call Signa Larralde at 248-5363.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Marc Rucker". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Marc Rucker, Manager
Environment and Lands Division

Enclosures as stated

Stewart Duncan / [Signature] Date: 7/26/02

Concur with No Adverse Effect for Preferred Alternative (Alternative B) or Alternative C
New Mexico State Historic Preservation Officer

cc: (w/report only):

Governor Stewart Paisano
Pueblo of Sandia
Box 6008
Bernalillo, New Mexico 87004

Mr. Ed Boles, Cultural Resources Planner
City of Albuquerque Planning Department
600 2nd Street NW
Albuquerque, NM 87102

cc: (w/o enclosures):

Mr. John Stomp, PE, Manager
Water Resources Division
City of Albuquerque
P.O. Box 1293
Albuquerque, NM 87103

Mr. Rick Billings
Parsons Engineering Science, Inc.
3200 Carlisle Blvd, Suite 204
Albuquerque, NM 87110